

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EGEN, IT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CRISIS OPENS SPLIT WITHIN LABOR MOVEMENT

1. SUMMARY. DISAGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SIMMERING FOR SOME TIME WITHIN THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED BY THE CRISIS CREATED BY THE PSI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MORO-LA MALFA GOVERNMENT. MAJORITY FACTIONS WITHIN THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, THAT IS THE MODERATE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WITHIN CISL, THE COMMUNISTS WITHIN CGIL AND THE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO CONTROL UIL ARE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO EARLY ELECTIONS AND CRITICAL OF THE SOCIALISTS FOR CREATING THE CURRENT CRISIS SINCE IT IMPEDES PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AIMED AT OVERCOMING RECESSIONARY TRENDS. THE SOCIALIST FACTIONS WITHIN CISL ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PSI DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. ASIDE FROM THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS FACING THE INCREASINGLY HARD HIT INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN ITALY AND THE WORSENING ECONOMIC

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CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHERN REGIONS, 1976 IS AN UNUSUALLY IM-

PORTANT YEAR FOR THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT. SEVENTY CONTRACTS INVOLVING TEN MILLION WORKERS ARE SUBJECT TO RENEWAL. RESPONSIBLE LABOR LEADERS BELIEVE AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WILL MAKE IMPOSSIBLE ANY SERIOUS PROGRESS IN THESE LABOR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE PSI WAS THE SUBJECT OF A STRONG ATTACK ON JANUARY FOUR BY PAOLO SARTORI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CISL FARM WORKERS CATEGORY UNION (FISBA). SARTORI SAID THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS MAY NOT BE BEST SERVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS OF THE MORO-LA MALFA GOVERNMENT FOR REVITALIZING INDUSTRY AND AIDING THE SOUTHERN REGIONS. THEY WOULD NOT BE HELPED, HOWEVER, IN ANY WAY BY THE "ARTIFICIAL CREATION OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH OBSTRUCT THE EXECUTIVE AND PARLIAMENT."

4. SARTORI'S STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY AN APPEAL FROM THE CISL SECRETARIAT TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL FORCES TO AVOID THE CRISIS WHICH PROVOKED MORO'S RESIGNATION. CISL ALSO CONFIRMED ITS OPPOSITION TO EARLY ELECTIONS SINCE THE DISTRACTIONS OF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WOULD FURTHER IMPEDE THE RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS.

5. WHILE A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO CISL'S WAS ISSUED BY THE UIL SECRETARIAT, THE SOCIALISTS WITHIN THE LATTER CONFEDERATION DIS-ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM THIS POSITION. A SIMILAR SPLIT APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING WITHIN CGIL WHERE SOCIALIST SECRETARIES PIERO BONI AND MARIO DI DADO WERE CRITICIZED BY RINALDO SCHEDE (COMMUNIST) ALONG WITH SOCIALISTS FROM UIL FOR THEIR LONGSTANDING OPPOSITION TO THE MORO-LAMALFA GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE LEADERS OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS ARE MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE CCU. THE LEIMOTIV FOR COVERING UP THE BASIC DIFFERENCES WITHIN AND AMONG EACH ORGANIZATION IS THEIR COMMON OPPOSITION TO EARLY ELECTIONS. VOLPE

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